

**SPECIAL SESSION ----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL**

**April 29, 2002**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in special session on Monday, April 29, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., in the Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall, 710 Williamson Road, N. E., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Section 10, Meetings of Council of the City Charter, pursuant to the budget study schedule for adoption of the City's fiscal year 2002-03 budget which was approved by Council on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, and pursuant to Resolution No. 35816-041502, adopted by Council on Monday, April 15, 2002.

**PRESENT:** Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

**ABSENT:** None-----0.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Council Member C. Nelson Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

**Budget:** Pursuant to instructions of Council, the Mayor advised that public hearings were advertised for Monday, April 29, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., on the proposed fiscal year 2002-03 HUD budget, City budget, admissions tax rate, and an increase in certain fees, including subdivision and zoning fees.

Legal advertisements of the public hearings were published in The Roanoke Times on Wednesday, April 10, 2002 and Tuesday, April 16, 2002, Wednesday, April 17, 2002; and in The Roanoke Tribune on Thursday, April 11, 2002 and Thursday, April 25, 2002.

In view of the number of speakers who wished to be heard, the Mayor requested that each speaker limit their remarks to no more than three minutes.

**HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS:** The Mayor advised that the first public hearing was on the HUD budget which recommends an allocation of \$4,468,232.00 in Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership and Emergency Shelter Grant funds to support an array of housing, homeless prevention, neighborhood and community development, public services and economic development activities.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to address the matter; whereupon, Rebecca Spaid, representing The Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council, expressed disappointment in not receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for fiscal year 2003. She advised that the Girl Scout Council was allocated funds for approximately three years; funds were used to provide Girl Scouting to 175 girls in seven of Roanoke's housing communities; and in 2003, it was their goal to increase the numbers and to provide extra services, including field trips to cultural organizations, membership to GSUSA, uniforms, badges, pins, and other programming materials. She stated that the Girl Scout Council serves approximately 300 clients in the housing communities, at a projected cost for the year 2003 of \$145,000.00; program services have been decreased due to lower revenues in order to provide outreach programs; and without CDBG funds for the year 2003, it may be necessary to cut the salary for ten part-time outreach coordinators and decrease programming in housing communities.

No other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

The Mayor advised that the second public hearing pertained to the proposed fiscal year 2002-03 City budget, which totals \$194.9 million, and inquired if there were persons in attendance who wished to be heard; whereupon, the following persons addressed Council:

The Honorable George M. McMillan, City Sheriff, advised that one would think with the events of September 11, 2001, the current emphasis on homeland security, and the recent rash of murders in the City of Roanoke over the past several months, would be cause for all persons to realize that public safety officers are more vital now than ever before to ensure the safety of those citizens who live and work in Roanoke; however, that does not appear to be the case in the Roanoke area. He stated that the Commonwealth of Virginia will maintain all State Police positions and the Governor and General Assembly, while cutting expenses, have added funds for additional personnel in Sheriff's offices; and to the best of his knowledge, the City of Roanoke is the only locality that is recommending the unfunding of public safety officers. He further stated that the City administration has recommended the elimination, or the lack of funding, of 17 public safety officers, or 60 per cent of the 29 net positions being eliminated in the City of Roanoke. He explained that all cities

and counties across Virginia are experiencing a tight budget year, but they wish to maintain public safety positions at the current levels, and in some cases have even increased public safety positions. Therefore, he requested that Council maintain Roanoke's public safety positions at a status quo to ensure the safety of citizens who live and work in Roanoke. He noted that the Sheriff's Office is funded by the State, the City, and fees that the Sheriff's Office is permitted to collect by the State; information regarding the Sheriff's requested budget demonstrates how the department will provide approximately \$1.5 million more in funding to the City than is required and can be used by the City as it deems appropriate; and the information also calls attention to taxpayers' funds that are saved through use of inmate labor. He stated that the requested budget includes funding for the two positions that the City administration has not recommended for funding and the conversion of two temporary Deputy Sheriff positions to full-time positions. He explained that earlier today, he was advised that through negotiations with the Compensation Board, all four Deputy Sheriff positions will be State approved and State funded positions as of July 1, 2002, and will no longer be locally funded; as such, the City cannot eliminate these State approved positions for the Sheriff's Office, in accordance with the Code of Virginia; and in addition, another \$284,000.00 will be received from the Compensation Board for next fiscal year, reducing the loss of State funding to only \$37,000.00. In conclusion, he advised that the Sheriff's Office is a revenue source for the City of Roanoke, providing a valuable and mandated service to the citizens of Roanoke at no cost to local taxpayers; therefore, he requested that the budget of the Sheriff's Office be fully funded.

Estelle Avner, representing the Bradley Free Clinic, 1240 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, S. W., advised that the Free Clinic has been in operation for 28 years, and provides \$2.2 million worth of free medical, dental, and pharmacy care annually to Roanoke City residents; all services are provided by volunteer healthcare professionals, and the Free Clinic has never requested assistance from the City of Roanoke; however, for fiscal year 2003, the Free Clinic is requesting \$70,000.00. She explained that during the past 28 years, the Bradley Free Clinic has provided over \$15 million worth of care to Roanoke City residents; in 2002, the Free Clinic found itself in a deficit of \$114,000.00 because of the high cost of medications, and agreed to approach the City of Roanoke for funding assistance since they do not receive Federal or State funding. She called attention to the desire of the Free Clinic to partner with the City of Roanoke in its efforts to provide much needed services to Roanoke's disadvantaged citizens.

Dr. Thomas McKeon, representing the Roanoke Higher Education Center, advised that from the beginning, the City's role in the development and financing of the Higher Education Center has been pivotal to its success; whereupon, he expressed appreciation for the City's contribution of \$2.5 million for building renovations and for the City's commitment of \$8.5 million to the development of parking and other infrastructure improvements. He stated that the operating

success of the Roanoke Higher Education Center is clear, enrollments are high and academic support services have been well received. He added that 60 per cent of the Higher Education Center's operating funds are generated from rent payments made by participating organizations, supplemented by State appropriation; this ratio was created in the first year of operation when the year 2000 session the Virginia General Assembly cut the Center's request for operating funds by one-third, and funding remained at the same level in 2001; during the 2002 session of the General Assembly, the Higher Education Center again requested appropriation increases, however, given the financial crisis, they were again turned down and sustained new reductions of seven to eight per cent for the next two years. He explained that from their first visits to the General Assembly, the Higher Education Center has been encouraged to seek additional operational funds from local governments in the Roanoke Valley region, but the Center has been reluctant to make such requests; however, current circumstances have caused the Higher Education Center to seek additional assistance. Therefore, he noted that the Higher Education Center is requesting a total of \$300,000.00 from Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and the City of Salem, with a request to the City of Roanoke of \$121,000.00; additional funding would be used for operating expenses which include \$100,000.00 for a Communications Director and support, \$50,000.00 for communications efforts, \$50,000.00 for the library, and \$100,000.00 for maintenance reserves. He advised that funding from the City of Roanoke will ensure that the facility and its programs are maintained to serve the citizens of the greater Roanoke region, and requested favorable consideration of the request by Council.

Pamela Irvine, Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank, expressed appreciation for the City's support of the Food Bank over the years. She advised that last year, with funding from the City of Roanoke, the Food Bank provided \$1,692,226.00 worth of food, or enough to provide 871,473 meals through 103 non-profit feeding programs in Roanoke City alone; through partnership with Roanoke City and HUD funding last year, 248,747 pounds of nutritious produce was provided to project areas; from July - March, \$1,493,083.00 worth of food was distributed to over 110 non-profit feeding programs, or enough to provide over 768,917 meals; and 12 kid café programs were operated in partnership with children's feeding programs where food was provided for afternoon programs. She asked that the request of the Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank for fiscal year 2003 be favorably considered.

Marshal McAden, Artistic Director for the Dumas Drama Guild, addressed Council in connection with funding needs for the Dumas Center for Artistic Development. He advised that the Dumas Drama Guild is a community theater composed of neighbors and co-workers, launching their ninth production of a socially conscious theater, and seeking funding consideration in the City's 2003 budget year. He stated that the community theater has outgrown the facility in which it is currently housed and is in need of larger facilities to provide a creative outlet for

children to showcase their talent, to provide a unique cultural experience for college students, and for the young at heart who love art. He further stated that in less than two years of operation, more than 70 performances have taken place, the summer youth program has provided a service for children, and any investment by the City of Roanoke will be an investment in the children of Roanoke and their future.

Lisa Gabourel, Youth Coordinator for the Dumas Drama Guild, spoke on behalf of a youth organization, known as the “Yo-Yo Players”, whose creed is to express, interact, and create on a positive level, to utilize community resources, to focus on self-discovery and artistic excellence, and consists of an afternoon drama workshop that meets once a week at the Dumas Music Center which is the first of its kind and is free to the community. She advised that the children range in age from four to fifteen, and come from as close as the Greater Gainsboro community and as far away as Bedford County; and children of all races participate in a true melting pot program. She explained that in the first season, 55 children from age five to 12 participated in a program from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. where they received breakfast, and lunch and engaged in two theatrical productions; and the program will again be provided this summer in partnership with the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation, Apple Ridge Farm and Total Action Against Poverty in an effort to offer a safe haven for youth and professionals who are willing to shape artistic and creative minds. She requested favorable consideration by Council of the funding request for the Dumas Theater.

Matthew Despard, 1934 Avon Road, S. W., representing the Board of Directors of the Downtown Music Lab, which is an after school music and recording program for middle and high school students, addressed Council with regard to funding issues. He advised that the Downtown Music Lab is scheduled to move into the Dumas Center for Artistic Development; currently 60 students regularly come to the Music Lab for approximately two hours for a program that includes supervision and guidance from a staff trained in music production and recording; and because of the Music Lab, 84 per cent of the young people state that they are more likely to attend school, while 72 per cent advise that they now have an opportunity to express themselves. He stated that the Dumas Theater will give the Music Lab a permanent home, including a full recording studio and computer lab for youth to complete homework assignments which does not currently exist in its Kirk Avenue location; provide a place where youth can play and record music without using headphones; increase the square footage of available space for the Music Lab; and the location on First Street will provide easier access for youth from the Gainsboro and Washington Park neighborhoods and other City neighborhoods. He added that the Dumas Center for Artistic Development, in partnership with the Downtown Music Lab, will provide a place for positive youth development, the request of the Dumas Guild for matching funds from the City over a multi-year period is reasonable, and he encouraged Council to honor the request.

**Dr. Randall Thea, President of the Board, Bradley Free Clinic in the Roanoke Valley, advised that this is the first time the Free Clinic has requested funding from the City. He explained that \$3 million in health care is provided annually to Roanoke Valley residents, with 75 per cent going to City residents, averaging 16,000 visits per year; in addition to medical exams, the Free Clinic provides lab work, x-rays, free specialty referrals, dental services, and 35,000 prescriptions are provided annually to working patients who are caught in the middle between welfare and the inability to afford quality health care. He noted that the Free Clinic Pharmacy fills prescriptions for not only Free Clinic patients, but for patients seen at emergency rooms and those recently discharged from hospitals, as well as from private physicians in the area; and in providing this service to Roanoke's disadvantaged citizens, the Free Clinic helps to pay their taxes, decrease the welfare role, and reduce emergency room and hospital visits. He explained that professionals volunteer their services free of charge; the medical and dental communities have continued to support this vital effort through volunteer and financial support; private contributions have carried the burden of support for 28 years and the Free Clinic has now reached the point where funding assistance is needed from the City of Roanoke. He requested that Council look with favor on the request of the Free Clinic for \$70,000.00 for fiscal year 2003.**

**Theodore J. Edlich, Executive Director, Total Action Against Poverty, advised that the top ten reasons to support the Dumas Center for Artistic Development are: (10) the Dumas is the last habitable structure on the Yard representing a past of dignity and excellence and the structure deserves to be preserved for the future in a way that is consistent with the spirit of the past; (9) plans to convert the Dumas into a Center for Artistic Development is the outcome of a six year process involving neighborhoods, the business and education communities, and the arts community; (8) there is a well identified need for an after school artistic development center that concentrates on the young where they not only can learn how to express their talent, but learn something about themselves and their place in society; (7) the Dumas has already generated exciting artistic ventures such as the Drama Guild, "Yo Yo Players", and the Downtown Music Lab; (6) the Dumas will play a positive role in bringing blacks, whites, and other ethnic groups together for diversity which is already represented in all of the projects that have been outlined; (5) the Dumas Center has broad community support, organizations that stand behind the project are Historic Gainsboro, Greater Gainsboro Alliance, Downtown Roanoke, the Higher Education Center, the Harrison Museum of African-American Culture, the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge, Total Action Against Poverty, the Roanoke Branch of the NAACP, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; (4) the Dumas Center for Artistic Development is a key ingredient completing the circle of excellence now represented by the Higher Education Center, the new apartments, The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, and anticipated continued progress in the Gainsboro neighborhoods; (3) the request for \$500,000.00 over several years will help to leverage \$3.5 million to complete restoration; (2) the Dumas Center is**

available to other organizations such as the Harrison Museum, the Higher Education Center, area private and public schools, community organizations, etc.; and (1) the Dumas Center for Artistic Development is a good business deal for the City which will generate revenue, and at a minimum as a for-profit corporation, the facility can generate as much as \$28,000.00 a year and has the potential of serving as a tourist attraction.

Ms. Amazetta Anderson, 920 Loudon Avenue, N. W., spoke on behalf of funding for the Dumas Drama Guild, and asked that Council consider the funding request on the basis that the Drama Guild will be a venture of total artistic development for youth and seniors.

Marc Chandler, Vice-President, Roanoke City Police Association, advised that a portion of the proposed budget cuts are caused by an approximate \$1.7 million decrease in funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia; however, this does not alter the focus or importance of his message. He stated that every department in the City is concerned about the effect of proposed budget cuts; while not wishing to diminish the work of other City departments that are staffed by dedicated employees, but in times of budgetary crisis, it must be determined what is of priority to citizens of the City of Roanoke, and no other department within City government is as vital to the daily lives of Roanoke's citizens as is the public safety component. He advised that proposed budget cuts will directly effect the ability to train personnel and respond to issues which affect the safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of Roanoke. He asked that Council, during budget study sessions, consider its public safety departments that are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to ensure that the citizens of Roanoke, along with those who visit the Roanoke area are safe and secure. He requested that the 2003 fiscal year budget be balanced without funding cuts in the public safety departments.

Ms. Carrie Jefferson, 192 McKinley Drive, Henry, Virginia, a senior at Patrick Henry High School, spoke on behalf of the Roanoke City DARE Camp. She stated that having participated in the DARE Camp, she can attest to the quality of the program. She advised that she has served as a DARE Camp counselor for the past four years where children enjoy learning experiences and make life long friendships, and requested that the City of Roanoke continue to provide funding for the DARE Camp.

Mr. Rodney Jordan, 20 Rock Haven Lane, Boones Mill, Virginia, representing the Roanoke Firefighters Association, expressed concern with regard to the proposed reduction in the 2003 fiscal year budget for public safety personnel which could lead to risks by firefighters and citizens. He stated that the proposed budget calls for a reduction in staffing in the Fire-EMS Department of four positions; and the Fire Chief has stated that position cuts will come in the form of elimination of three

fire suppression positions from Ladder One in downtown Roanoke; and for the non-funding of the Deputy Chief of Suppression position, which is the number two slot in the department. He inquired as to why the City would want to weaken its ability to respond to emergencies when the Federal Government and the Governor of Virginia have committed to strengthening public safety capabilities; and why would the City of Roanoke want to eliminate staffing positions when it does not currently meet minimum standards. He stated that the City Manager's proposal, even though it will save City taxpayer dollars in the long run, does not make good sense because the department is constantly calling firefighters back to duty on overtime status in order to meet minimum staffing levels which are currently below the national standard. He explained that elimination of positions from the ladder truck will result in three less firefighters to meet the minimum level; the final result will be elimination of a position at regular salary and replacing that position with one at overtime salary, which does not make good sense. He noted that of top priority is the safety of citizens and firefighters; firefighters intend to show Council why the positions are needed, consequences of eliminating the positions, figures regarding national standards, and why there is a trend and a need across the nation to hire more firefighters, police and EMS personnel.

Mr. Robert Gravely, 617 Hanover Avenue, N. W., advised that the average citizen, and specifically City employees, do not earn sufficient wages to own a house; and citizens do not receive sufficient services for their tax dollars. He spoke against bond referendas authorized by the City that have benefitted businesses as opposed to citizens.

Allen Shiplett, 1006 Hamilton Avenue, S. W., Vice-President of the Wasena Neighborhood Forum, expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's department for assigning inmate labor to work in the Wasena neighborhood. He stated that as a result of their work, neighborhoods are safer, cleaner and a better place to live.

Mr. Ricky Nelson, 1319 Tazewell Avenue, S. E., addressed Council in connection with the recent approval for expansion of the Roanoke Rescue Mission on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, S. E. He called attention to unsafe living conditions in southeast Roanoke where a zero tolerance to crime is needed. He stated that the historic value of southeast Roanoke should be protected and expressed concern in regard to proposed budget cuts in public safety.

Ms. Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that it has been stated that the true worth of a City or a City Council is determined not by how many new buildings are constructed, but by how they treat citizens who are less fortunate than they. With this thought in mind, she requested that Council support the grant-in-kind requested by TAP for the Dumas Artistic Center which is based not only upon the rich history of the area, but upon the successes of TAP and the diversity of students and people who will use the facility. She asked that the City fund the Dumas Center for the sake of the children who currently use the facility and for future generations.



**Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., appeared before Council in support of the Dumas Artistic Guild. She stated that the Hotel Dumas is only one of three historic buildings left in the Gainsboro community. She advised that the proposed budget has serious flaws relative to public safety, and expressed concern regarding the closing of fire stations, with no definitive answers from the Fire Chief and the City Manager in connection with the closure of the fire station in the Peters Creek Road/Orange Avenue/Williamson Road area which covers the predominantly black neighborhoods. She stated that if the fire stations were in such poor condition, why were they not repaired. She expressed concern in regard to proposed funding cuts in public safety positions which are crucial to the well being of the City, and added that municipal employees are the backbone of the City of Roanoke, there is much unhappiness and unrest, and asked that Council review the proposed personnel reductions and stand up for municipal employees.**

**Ms. Zoe Hewitt-Stennett, 3531 Peters Creek Road, N. W., asked that Council not approve the proposed decreases in public safety budgets. She commended the services provided by Fire/EMS, Police and Sheriff's personnel for the safety and well being of the citizens of Roanoke.**

**Courtney Penn, 506 12<sup>th</sup> Street, N. W., representing the Roanoke Branch, NAACP and its President, spoke in support of Phase II, Dumas Center construction, and allocation of funds by the City to the project. He also expressed support of the project not only because of its economic development potential, but for the promotion of youth and adult creative and cultural development expression, and because the requested allocation is reasonable and equitable, especially given recent budgetary promises made to other organizations. He asked that Council see the value in the programs that will be offered at the Dumas Artistic Center and appropriate the requested funds.**

**Ms. Estelle McCadden, 2128 Mercer Avenue, N. W., requested answers and clarification on certain proposed recommendations for fiscal year 2003. She stated that money is needed for public safety, programs for youth, and diversity in housing, work places and everyday activities. She advised that the proposed budget calls for the hiring of a tax administrator; however, the position is not needed and funds should be designated for youth and public safety issues. She inquired if those positions recommended by the City Manager to be eliminated have been identified. She expressed concern that citizens are asked to serve on boards and committees, but committee recommendations are not given serious consideration. She also expressed concern that some persons have already made up their mind about those items to be included in the proposed fiscal year 2003 budget.**

**No other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.**

**The Mayor advised that the third public hearing was on a proposed increase in the admissions tax. He stated that the City Manager is recommending an increase from 5 per cent to 6.5 per cent, effective July 1, 2002.**

**The Mayor inquired if there were persons in attendance who wished to be heard on the matter. There being none, without objection by Council, he declared the public hearing closed.**

**The Mayor advised that the next public hearing relates to proposed increases in certain fees, including subdivision and zoning fees. He inquired if there were persons in attendance who would like to address Council; whereupon, the following persons spoke:**

**Mr. Roger Roberts, 121 West Campbell Avenue, spoke with regard to the proposed fee for refuse collection in the downtown area. He stated that the City should do everything in its power to help the businesses in downtown Roanoke, because 35-40 per cent of businesses along Campbell Avenue have closed; and the proposed \$50 per month trash collection fee is out of line for businesses that are not subsidized by the City. He stated that downtown businesses are operating in the midst of parking limitations and \$15 parking tickets, and the downtown area is not conducive for shopping or recreational purposes. He asked that Council enact measures that will help downtown businesses.**

**Mr. Leo Trenor, 543 Petty Avenue, N. W., advised that Williamson Road business people pay a tax penalty for having their businesses located on Williamson Road; the City of Roanoke spent funds, unnecessarily, from Orange Avenue up Williamson Road replacing perfectly good sidewalks, while the other end of Williamson Road does not have any sidewalks. He stated that funds collected as a part of the special service tax district are allocated to the Williamson Road Area Business Association, a large majority of members are not property owners on Williamson Road, nor do they own businesses on Williamson Road, and private property owners on Williamson Road are being over looked. He stated that private landowners believe that the City of Roanoke should provide free refuse collection in view of the taxes that they pay on an annual basis, and if a refuse collection tax is enacted, it should apply City-wide.**

**Erick Moore, Government Affairs Public Relations Coordinator, advised that the Roanoke Regional Home Builders Association, is a non-profit trade association representing approximately 500 members and over 16,000 men and women in associated trades throughout the region. He stated that the building industry represents one-sixth of the economy, which is a struggling economy that has somehow remained strong. He spoke to the proposed 100 per cent increase in building and planning fees on new home buyers which will have the effect of putting**

**new homes out of the reach of many new home buyers; and will hurt not only rehabilitation efforts within the City, but also new construction. He called attention to comments by City officials that housing is a critical component to revitalization efforts in Roanoke City; therefore, the proposed fees will hurt efforts to construct new housing in the City of Roanoke. During Council's budget deliberations, he asked that the proposed tax increase of 100 per cent in fees for planning and zoning be reconsidered.**

**Mr. Robert Crouch, P. O. Box 37, Villamont, Virginia, expressed concern that he was not permitted to register to speak upon his arrival at the Council meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m. He referred to a letter from the City administration in connection with a proposed increase in fees for refuse collection in the downtown Roanoke commercial district. He stated that if a fee is to be imposed for refuse collection, it should be enacted City-wide and not discriminate on the downtown area business owner. He expressed concern that he did not receive notification of the proposed increase and would not have known about the proposal had it not been for another business owner in the area. He stated that he did not envy the job of Council Members, and it is hoped that the upcoming Councilmanic election will produce Council Members who are cognizant of the financial dilemma of the Commonwealth of Virginia.**

**There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.**

**The Mayor noted that Council will convene in fiscal year 2002-03 budget study sessions on Thursday and Friday, May 9 and 10, 2002, at 8:30 a.m., in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke with the goal of referring the proposed budget back to the City Manager for the necessary adjustments and preparation of the appropriate measures for adoption by Council at a special meeting to be held on Monday, May 13, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., in the Roanoke City Council Chamber, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke.**

**There being no further business, the Mayor declared the special meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

## **A P P R O V E D**

**ATTEST:**

**Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk**

**Ralph K. Smith  
Mayor**

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**SPECIAL SESSION ---- ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL**

**April 29, 2002**

**Immediately Following the Public Hearing on the 2002-03  
Fiscal Year Budget Which Convened At 7:00 p.m. (8:20 p.m.)**

**The Council of the City of Roanoke met in special session on Monday, April 29, 2002, immediately following the public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2002-03 budget, which convened at 7:00 p.m., in the Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall, 710 Williamson Road, N. E., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Section 10, Meetings of Council of the City Charter, pursuant to the budget study schedule for adoption of the City's fiscal year 2002-03 budget which was approved by Council on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, and pursuant to Resolution No. 35816-041502 adopted by Council on Monday, April 15, 2002.**

**PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., Linda F. Wyatt, and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.**

**ABSENT: None-----0.**

**OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.**

**BUDGET-TAXES: The Mayor advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to consider the City's proposed real property tax rate for fiscal year 2002-03. He further advised that the City Manager's proposed budget includes a real property tax rate of \$1.21 per \$100.00 of assessed value, which is the current tax rate for fiscal year 2001-02.**

**Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in The Roanoke Times on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, and in The Roanoke Tribune on Thursday, April 25, 2002.**

**The Mayor inquired if there were persons in attendance who would like to address Council with regard to the matter. There being none, without objection by Council, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.**

**There being no further business, the Mayor declared the special meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

**A P P R O V E D**

**ATTEST:**

**Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk**

**Ralph K. Smith  
Mayor**

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